

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 SAL-01 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 CG-00 INT-05 DOTE-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 (ISO) W

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O R 151812Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8144

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 00721

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, IC, UK

SUBJECT: UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE: FCO SPOKESMAN
ON LUNS VISIT TO REYKJAVIK

REF: LONDON 563; WORREL/WOESSNER TELECON ON JANUARY 15

1. FCO PRESS DEPARTMENT OFFICER (JOHN BOURGOIN) TOLD
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EMBASSY OFFICER THAT FCO'S FIRST REFERENCE IN DAILY PRESS

BRIEFINGS TO LUNS' VISIT WAS JANUARY 13 WHEN FCO WEL-COMED LUNS' VISIT TO ICELAND AND INDICATED THAT LUNS WOULD BE WELCOME IN LONDON "IF HE WERE TO SEE ANY SIGNS OF FLEXIBILITY ON THE PART OF ICELAND OR POSSIBILITIES FOR MEDIATION AND PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS."

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, ON JANUARY 14 FCO PRESS SPOKESMAN IN DAILY SESSION IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION SAID THAT NO ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR LUNS TO COME TO LONDON ON JANUARY 16 OR 17. SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT LUNS' VISIT WOULD BE WELCOME IF HE WERE TO FIND ICELAND PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE.

3. IN PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 15, FCO SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED FOREIGN SECRETARY WOULD BE LEAVING JANUARY 18 FOR COPENHAGEN MEETING OF SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERS. HE ALSO HELD OUT POSSIBILITY CALLAGHAN COULD MEET LUNS WHEN HE ARRIVES IN BRUSSELS TUESDAY, JANUARY 20 FOR MEETING OF EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. CALLAGHAN REMAINS OVERNIGHT IN BRUSSELS BEFORE DEPARTING FOR BERLIN ON OFFICIAL VISIT JANUARY 21 AND WILL RETURN TO BRUSSELS FOR NATO MEETING JANUARY 23.

4. COMMENT: PRESS REPORTS WERE BASICALLY ACCURATE IN HIGHLIGHTING BRITISH REACTION TO LUNS' VISIT TO ICELAND AS COMBINATION OF PLEASURE AND CAUTION WITH EMPHASIS ON GIVING LUNS OPPORTUNITY TO EXERCISE JUDGMENT AS TO POSSIBLE VALUE OF CONSULTATIONS IN LONDON AFTER REYKJAVIK.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING DISPUTES, VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON00721
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760015-0969
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760154/aaaabwdt.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LONDON 563
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE: FCO SPOKESMAN ON LUNS VISIT TO REYKJAVIK
TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, IC, UK, NATO, (LUNS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006